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## Minutes City Council's Transportation & Affordable Housing Committee April 24, 2007

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Minutes of the City Council's Transportation & Affordable Housing Committee held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 3:00 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Shana Ellis, Chair  
Vice Mayor Hut Hutson

**City Staff Present:**

Cindy Brown, ADA & Accessibility Specialist  
Neil Calfee, Deputy Comm Dev Mgr  
Carlos de Leon, Dep Pub Wrks Mgr  
Kathy Gasperich, Council Aide  
Craig Hittie, Housing  
Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Mgr  
Eric Iwersen, Senior Planner  
Theresa James, Homeless Coordinator  
Gregg Kent, Light Rail  
Glenn Kephart, Public Wrks Mgr  
Jayson Matthews, TCC  
Jyme Sue McLaren, Dep Pub Wrks Mgr  
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr  
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Svcs Spec

**Guests Present:**

Don Cassano, Transportation Commission  
John Farry, Valley METRO  
Jay Harper, Valley METRO  
Bryan Young, Transportation Commission

**Councilmember Shana Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.**

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None.

**Agenda Item 2 – ADA Task Force Report**

Cindy Brown summarized the ADA Task Force Report.

- All cities and towns are required to survey all facilities and programs to verify accessibility.
- Flagstaff, audited by the Department of Justice, offered an evaluation tool used to create the report.
- A task force of representatives from all departments was established in December of 2005.
- Evaluations were performed for each department's services.
- The evaluations revealed that Tempe does a good job in providing accessibility, but many times departments are unsure how to provide services, i.e. braille.
- Some of the recommendations have been completed, and some have target dates:
  - Provide city-wide education regarding the ADA requirements and what is required via trainings, email updates and intranet website.
  - Create an internet website for the public regarding accessibility policies, including how to ensure accommodations.
  - Review of the accommodation procedure.
  - Department-specific recommendations for Community Services, Cultural Services Public Art, Fire Department, Information Technology, Parks & Recreation, and the Police Department.

Rosa Inchausti added that the report is available in the Diversity Office. Staff will bring this report back to Council on January 10, 2008.

Ms. Brown added that the "Access Tempe" brochure is on the website to let the public know about the accessibility available in Tempe.

### **Agenda Item 3 – LRT Update**

Gregg Kent summarized that Transportation Engineering is reviewing the request for closure of McClintock Drive for two weeks from May 14<sup>th</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup> for light rail construction. Staff will seek Council's approval at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> IRS. There will also be weekly newspaper light rail feature stories.

### **Agenda Item 4 – LRT Operations and Maintenance Agreement**

Jyme Sue McLaren summarized the Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the Light Rail Transit System. This agreement parallels the agreement among the cities of Tempe, Phoenix and Mesa. Phoenix has executed their agreement and Tempe and Mesa are moving forward with an agreement. The general categories are:

- general operating characteristics of the system
- access issues pertaining to the guideway areas
- system safety and security issues
- addressing of special events for the region
- operating and maintenance of transportation centers and park-and-rides in concert with the rail system
- cost sharing
- maintenance agreements
- insurance provisions

She summarized items not included in the agreement:

- regional fare policy
- agreement to define each city's obligation to cost sharing
- bus/rail interface agreement
- agreement for systems safety and security (Police Department role, handling of fare collection and ticketing)

Phoenix has executed their agreement. City staff has reviewed this agreement and staff will take this agreement to Council on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and to the Valley Metro Rail Board in May or June.

Jay Harper, Valley Metro Rail, added that there are only two minor alterations to this agreement. Section 22.0 was deleted and "bus bridging" has been redefined to be more open.

There was discussion about whether to take this agreement to Council at an IRS or a Formal meeting.

**DIRECTION: Staff was directed to take the agreement to the Formal Council meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Western Canal Multi-use Path Project**

Eric Iwersen summarized the project

- The project consists of six miles of pathway.
- There are six street crossings:
  - Priest – connecting to existing signalized crossing
  - Hardy – installing a pedestrian-refuge treatment
  - Baseline - connecting to existing signalized crossing
  - Guadalupe – installing a pedestrian-refuge treatment
  - Rural – HAWK signals
  - McClintock – HAWK signals
- 60% plan currently and scheduled to be at 90% plan the first week in June. A contractor is on board and will be working over the summer on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the construction project. There is \$4.15M in Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) monies attached to the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2007, with completion in October 2008.
- The planned design will keep a minimum vertical obstruction of 15 feet clear from the canal. An adjacent area next to the paved path will feature a soft trail surface, and the vertical element (light poles, trees, landscaping) will be adjacent to that path.
- There has been extensive dialog with SRP to determine ways to get around the power poles.
- The path connects to Kiwanis Park at three different trailheads.
- Park amenity funds come from Transit.
- There are five locations where the old Hohokam canal system intersects with the contemporary system and markings will provide history.

Shelly Seyler summarized the HAWK pedestrian crossings.

- Two crossings will use the High Intensity Activated crosswalk (HAWK) regulatory device which requires vehicles to stop.
- Goals include compliance, safety, timely service and maintenance.
- Light sequence

- amber flashing light after pedestrian pushes button, warns that pedestrians will be crossing
- amber solid with “don’t walk” hand illuminated
- red solid signifies to motorists that they must stop, and pedestrians may walk
- red wig-way motion signifies to motorists that once pedestrian has crossed their lane, motorists may proceed.
- returns to “dark”
- Tucson studies
  - 58 HAWK signs, with 3 pedestrian accidents from 1999 to 2006. HAWK has been used at school crossings, U of A, and School for the Blind.
- Other studies
  - A University of North Carolina study on motorist compliance showed compliance increased from 31% without HAWK to 93%.
  - A Texas A&M study showed motorist compliance of 97%.
- Next steps:
  - FHWA approval to use HAWK at the two Western Canal crossings at Rural and McClintock.
  - Seek Council approval at IRS in May.
  - Create outreach campaign.
  - Conduct before and after studies.
  - If successful, move forward cautiously with other locations.

Councilmember Ellis asked if there was sound incorporated with the lights for the blind.

Ms. Seyler responded that sound can be incorporated.

Glenn Kephart added that this part of the trail project is a good opportunity to observe the system. If people like it, they will want it at other locations, but staff would like time to observe it before it is used in other locations.

**DIRECTION: Staff was directed to move forward to IRS.**

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Tax Credit project**

Neil Calfee summarized that two projects have applied for low income tax credits: housing for low income deaf seniors and 5<sup>th</sup> and Farmer. Currently, staff is responding to State questions and will know the final outcome in June.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Housing First RFP**

Craig Hittie summarized that an RFP was drafted and finalized for two 2-bedroom units to be used under the Housing First model. The RFP was drafted to include a clause that requires the selected agency to have extensive experience working with the community should any issues result regarding the housing. The finalized RFP is within days of being issued. It will be sent to 15 to 20 groups and will be open for 60 days.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Fair Housing Month - April**

Theresa James stated that April is Fair Housing Month. The Fair Housing Act was enacted in 1968 and it prohibits discrimination in the housing market based on race, religion, national

origin, gender, disability and familial status. Tempe is mandated to educate the community about fair housing rights because it receives federal funding. In her role, she educates the community and represents the City at the Arizona Fair Housing Partnership. She also helps residents file fair housing complaints with HUD and the Arizona Attorney General's Office. An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice is also done on a regular basis and a survey will be sent to residents.

**DIRECTION: Proceed to IRS on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Agenda Item 9 – Project Homeless Connect Event**

Theresa James summarized that Project Homeless Connect will take place on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 215 E. University. This is a national best practices model that brings together a diverse group of community members for one day to provide immediate services to homeless individuals and families. Many living on the streets will not necessarily go to an agency for help, but if they are brought together in one place, they will access resources. Tempe is the only Arizona city to host an event and national attention has been garnered. Mayor Hallman will help serve lunch.

**Agenda Item 10 – CDBG Celebration Event – Tempe/CPLC Award**

Craig Hittie summarized that each year one city hosts the celebration to highlight CDBG projects and to bestow project awards. Chicano Por La Causa will be awarded for their construction of an affordable housing unit. That home was purchased by a Section 8 graduate and with all the different layers of funding, the mortgage was approximately \$80K less than market value.

**Agenda Item 11 – Affordable Housing In-Lieu Fee**

Chris Salomone summarized that a consultant was hired to perform an analysis for an appropriate in-lieu fee per residential housing unit. Council has been asking developers of reserve and infill projects to contribute certain amounts for affordable housing. The consultant will look at what that appropriate fee could be, and research what other cities are charging. Staff will calculate going forward about ten years based on the number of units the City would anticipate developing over that period of time. The study should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

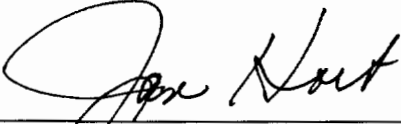
Vice Mayor Hutson suggested having Councilmember Mitchell from the Finance, Economy & Veterans Affairs Council Committee (FEVA) attend so that staff wouldn't have to make two presentations, or Councilmember Ellis could attend a presentation to the FEVA Committee.

**Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items**

- Neighborhood Circulators (have meeting in Hatton Hall or Council Chambers)
- Summer Schedule
- Bus pull-outs and shelters

**Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.**

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell  
Reviewed by: Carlos de Leon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Hort", written over a horizontal line.

Jan Hort  
City Clerk